

month, founded the Idaho flagship of the international Books for Israel project.

Between 2004 and 2006, Mr. Lynch gathered over 10,000 books from Idaho schools to send to Israel for the schoolchildren there. His goal is to have books donated from all the counties in Idaho. Mr. Lynch has enlisted supporters from the community including school officials, bookstore owners, a restaurant franchise, Office Depot, Boise State University, and even members of the criminal justice community in Boise.

I commend Mr. Lynch on his outstanding efforts and thank him also for his esteemed service in the U.S. Navy before and during World War II. Clearly, David Joseph Lynch embodies a life of service and a commitment to improving humanity. He is an inspiration to all—a man whose singular efforts are felt across the globe by our friends in Israel.●

SVIHOVEC FAMILY TRIBUTE

● Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, this year marks the 100th anniversary of the last great wave of homesteading upon the prairies of America. Mr. President 1907 was the high water mark of the western boom, the last real chance for entrepreneurs and pioneers to capture 160 acres of free land.

Homesteading was one of those singular inventions that proved a triumphant success—one that gave families of modest means a genuine opportunity to share in the American dream.

Among the tens of thousands who surged west to take part in this great enterprise was a family of Bohemian emigrants—the Svihovecs. They are particularly intriguing because seven brothers homesteaded side by side. While it was not unusual for family groups to homestead near each other, the uniqueness of seven brothers doing so was unprecedented in homesteading history.

Although only two decades removed from their near feudal farm existence in the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the Svihovecs were shrewd enough to strategically locate their homesteads to nearly surround a section of railroad-owned land, thereby protecting it for their own use and future purchase.

These brothers and their equally hearty Czech spouses were Frank and Rose Svihovec, Charles and Anna Svihovec, Vincent and Anna Svihovec, Joseph and Annie Svihovec, Emil and Barbara Svihovec, and two single brothers, James, and Louis. Their homesteads were in southwestern North Dakota, along the Hettlinger and Adams County line. Two more brothers, Rudolph—and his wife Nellie—and Edward—and his wife Terezie—opted to become businessmen, one in Minneapolis and other in the New York City area.

The homesteaders' beginning was inauspicious. There was a train wreck on the way west. Upon their arrival, they

were met by the blackened desolation of one of the great western prairie fires which had burned the expected winter feed for their livestock. Snowbound the first winter, they ran out of food.

There were other setbacks and tragedies, but a life was created for themselves and almost 40 offspring, so many children that the school became known as the Svihovec School.

A hundred years later, descendants of these Svihovec pioneers are scattered from London to Los Angeles. A number still remain near the homesteads, in the communities of Mott and Hettlinger, and one couple, John and Arlyce Frieze, still actively farm and ranch part of the original homestead lands. Most of the original homesteads, in fact, remain in the ownership of one of the Svihovec families.

It is a remarkable saga, a tale of grit and courage, one that illustrates the kind of strength of character and hardy determination that has served America so well for so many years. The Svihovec tribe has a proud, vital, and continuing legacy that I am honored to acknowledge and salute today in the Senate.●

TRIBUTE TO SUPHADA ROM

● Mr. LEAHY. I want to speak briefly about a remarkable event that happened last Friday, June 15, 2007, in the small town of Windsor in my home State of Vermont. But first a bit of history.

In January 1989, a member of my staff, Tim Rieser, traveled to the Thailand-Cambodia border to locate a young Cambodian woman whose mother and two brothers, all of them survivors of the Khmer Rouge holocaust, had resettled in Vermont. The woman, Rhumdoul Rom, had been kidnapped and smuggled back into Cambodia, but she had escaped and was in a Thai refugee camp.

When Rhumdoul was located she was holding her 5-day-old baby daughter, whose name was Suphada. A few days and several long airplane rides later, the two of them arrived in Vermont where they were reunited with the rest of their family. Sadly, Suphada's grandfather and other family members were among the 2 million Cambodians who were murdered or starved to death by the Khmer Rouge. One of Rhumdoul's sisters survived, and is living in Cambodia today.

Adjusting to Vermont was not easy. Imagine traveling for the first time on an airplane and arriving from the tropics in a foreign land in the middle of winter, ice and snow everywhere, and not speaking a word of English.

But the family persevered, supported by the generosity of the Windsor community. As the years passed, Rhumdoul learned English, graduated from high school and then community college, and became a skilled medical technician, at the same time that she was raising her daughter as a single mother.

Suphada, coming to America so young, learned English easily and over time became an outstanding student and athlete. She won a prize for her writing, learned to play the flute, served meals at a local nursing home, and this year she was the captain of the Windsor girls' basketball team. She is also a very outgoing and friendly person.

Recently, tragedy struck the family again, when Rhumdoul's mother and Suphada's grandmother, Prak Soy, died suddenly of meningitis. My wife Marcelle and I had the privilege of meeting Prak Soy, for whom living in the United States was not easy. I will always remember her as a selfless person who cared deeply for her children and grandchildren. They meant the world to her.

This is a family that has experienced great loss, but they are also an example for those of us who have never known what it is to live through something as horrifying as genocide.

On June 15, Suphada graduated from Windsor High School, and I understand that she has been accepted to several colleges, including, I am proud to say, my own alma mater, St. Michael's College in Colchester, VT. It is also the alma mater of another accomplished Cambodian refugee, Loung Ung, who years ago resettled in Vermont and has since become a world renowned author for her book "First They Killed My Father," and a tireless campaigner against the scourge of landmines.

I, Marcelle, and my staff would have liked to attend Suphada's graduation, but it was not possible due to the Senate's schedule and other commitments. But I want to congratulate her and her mother for her outstanding scholastic and athletic achievements, and wish her the best in the coming year at whichever college she chooses.●

HONORING JOSEPH SIMUNOVICH

● Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, today I honor Joseph Simunovich for his leadership, dedication, and accomplishments at Hackensack University Medical Center and the New Jersey Turnpike Authority. Joe retired as chairman of the board of these great New Jersey institutions earlier this year.

Joe's life of public service spans more than three decades. In 1972, he was elected to serve as a Hudson County freeholder, a position he held for 12 years, 3 of them as director/chairman of the board. In 1986, Joe was appointed by New Jersey Governor Thomas Kean to serve on the New Jersey Economic Development Authority. Reappointed by Governors Jim Florio and Christine Whitman, for a total of six consecutive terms, Joe is the longest serving member in the organization's history.

In 2002, Joe was chosen by Governor James McGreevey to serve as the chairman of the New Jersey Turnpike Authority, where he led the organization through the consolidation with